The Logger's Bark
RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

March 2015 Volume 11, Issue 3 © 2015 Radio Club of Tacoma

Sorry the March issue of The Bark is a bit late. Life got in the way this past month, both with club activities and with other commitments. Better late than never, I guess.

I've noticed many new faces around the clubhouse, and have had the opportunity to meet and visit with quite a few of them. It's a real treat to have many of them show up at planning sessions and other behind-the-scenes goings-on in addition to the usual suspects. Your input has been very much appreciated, as is your enthusiasm and contribution of new perspectives on the direction the club should take, and how to enhance our amateur radio experiences.

It's time to start gearing up for Field Day. We need a big crew of folks to get us back into the field after two years of holding the gig at the clubhouse. Step right up and volunteer.

Lots of Club members were seen at the Mike and Key hamfest, and several members were observed with bags full of new toys and lighter wallets. Our Property Management team did well selling surplus property on behalf of the club.

My mind took a step back about 50-60 years when I was putting together the article about a slice of radio history that is in this month's issue.

And I do believe that springtime may be just around the corner. I've mowed my lawn twice already. It is time to be thinking about checking antennas and wires outside and determining if any repairs are needed from winter damage. I know for sure I have some trees that need trimming before they start stretching a couple of my guy wires too tight.

That's all for now. See you at the Clubhouse or maybe we'll get luck and 'see' each other on the air.

73 Mike

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RCT Board of Directors Meeting

7 January 2015 Minutes

The Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma.

Officers and board members present:

President	Gary McAdams WG7X
Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Treasurer	David Andresen W7HTJ
Board Member	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board Member	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Board Member	Al Ferguson N7OMS
Board Member	Nick Winter K7MO

There were 15 names on the attendance roster a copy of which is attached to the original minutes

Quorum: Yes

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by President Gary McAdams WG7X.

Minutes:

The minutes of the January 2015 Board Meeting as distributed and coordinated, were approved without objection or correction.

HEALTH AND WELFARE: None reported

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Bank Statements
Utility and Phone Bills
Newsletters
Memberships
Contest Journal
Electric Radio
Radio Tube inquiry
QSL Cards

TREASURER'S REPORT: David W7HTJ circulated the January 2015 financial report.

A copy of the financial report is attached to the original copy of these minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: George reports the membership renewal level stands at about 1/3rd of our end of year count.

Training: Next Technician's Class February 7/8

Information Technology: – Randy Myers WB4SBP

The IRLP replacement computer is all but ready to put on line, waiting only for resolution of a computer audio issue

Laptop Donation: Bob Purdom AD7LJ donated a laptop to the Club..

Website Update: Randy WB4SPB noted that Joe, K7ZG has added a really useful W7DK.org website search capability to make it easier to locate information quickly

HF Operations: Operational

Patch Panel: Bruce Cranefield WB7EC continues to work on the club's HF antenna feed line and patch panel, to make use of new cable runs installed by Rich KR7W.

Tower Inspection: Tim K7TMW asked where the Tower Inspection project was. Awaiting coordination with Rich KR7W Nick K7MO, and or others to identify licensed professionals and secure an estimate for the evaluation. Bob AD7LJ also offered to help identify possible Tower Inspection contacts.

Repeaters: Tim White K7TMW Submitted a Proposed Repeater Budget request.

A **replacement antenna** for 147.38 repeaters at Crawford Mountain. Suggested options are a RFS Ce3llwave estimated at $ 300 or a Telewave Antenna estimated at $700.

Connectors for new feedline estimate $ 100.00

Fuel for service trips to Crawford Mountain estimate $ 50.00/per trip

Service Monitor IFR 1200 estimate up to $5,000.00

A motion was made, seconded and approved to authorize the expenditure of up to $600.00 for an antenna, feed line connectors and fuel expenses.

A copy of the two candidate antenna specifications sheets are attached to the original copy of these minutes.

The request for a Service Monitor was well received. After discussion the Board asked for additional research into available options and price ranges. Nick K7MO offered to help in the research.

The RCT Bylaws require membership approval of expenditures over $ 2,000.00, and as soon as the research is complete and a Board decision made, if the Service Montior cost is over $ 2,000.00 the membership must be notified and a meeting set to get membership approval for the expenditure.

Repeater Status:

W7DK 145.21 Repeater, Bates Channel 28: Tuned -- Operational

W7DK 147.28 Repeater Clubhouse: Status – Repaired - Operational

W7DK 147.38 Repeater Crawford Mountain: Status – Operational, awaiting installation of the 440 MHz control unit

W7DK 440.625 Repeater Clubhouse Status – Operational

IRLP 147.28 Repeater) Operational

Facilities Management:

Bruce WE7P has been exploring repair of the damaged eyebrow fascia with several members. When the weather gets better this project should take place.

Nick K7MO asked that the large area light near the back roof peak be replaced.

Property Management:

Mike W7MWF provide a review of property disposition plans, including those already approved for this year's Mike and Key Hamfest.
The team: presented a disposition list of 125 items for Board review. Items 1 through 100 have already been approved, and Property Management requests Board disposition approval for items 101 through 125.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the list as submitted.
A copy of the list is attached to the original copy of these minutes.
Garage Lighting: Mike W7MWF identified an issue with the current garage lighting which is old, mostly fluorescent with troublesome ballasts, and inadequate. Mike W7MWF proposed replacing most of the interior Garage lighting with LED strips, and relocating some of the old fluorescent systems to areas which get little use. He also asked for a night light on the outside front to assist in loading, unloading in hours of darkness, and for safety.
A motion was made, seconded and approved to authorize the expenditure of up to $ 300.00 to upgrade the garage lighting.

Library Report: Al N7OMS presented Doug Oakman AD7AV's Library report and budget request.

Doug's report summarized Library activities over the last year, and proposed plans and acquisitions for 2015

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Library report as presented

A motion was made, seconded and passed to authorize the expenditure of up to $435.00 to acquire additional holdings, eBooks, and add storage space

A copy of the Library report is attached the original copy of these minutes.

General Membership Meeting Program for 14 January; Dave W7UUU

Logbooks and QSO logging past and present. We'll see many of the varied ways to record our contacts and generate electronic confirmations for achieving operating awards. We'll also cover all the steps required to download, set up, and use the very popular but somewhat cumbersome ARRL Logbook of the World. As a free bonus there will be a quantity (20 or so) CD ROMs with logging software, step-by-step LoTW documents, and both printed and computer templates for making your own logs.

Workshop Project:

28 February: Pending

Museum: **Rich KR7W** No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

RCT Financial Planning: Ken Gibson N7ELF

Awaiting action

RCT Centennial Planning

Early planning work is underway to prepare for our 100th anniversary in 2016

N7OMS Al Ferguson and WB4SBP Randy Myers have contacted ARRL NW Director Jim Pace to discuss possible special event call sign and other potential activities. W7DK/100 seems a logical call.

Other plans include one or more articles for QST, and a proposed memorial patio with personalized bricks behind the clubhouse, a project headed up by Dave Ellison W7UUU.

A recommendation was made to consider social media as a vehicle to promote the Centennial, and the club as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FYBO: 7 Feb 2015 will be at Pt. Defiance Park, Owens Beach shelter, and include a Bunny ARDF hunt. CW And Voice QRP Stations will be set up and folks are invited to come, operate, or socialize around 10 am to about 3pm.

Attaboys*:*

Property Management Team for Mike and Key Prep and Mini Swapmeet

W7DK.org K7ZG Website Search Capabiltiy

The meeting was adjourned at 19:55

W7DK

Proudly celebrating 99 years of Amateur Radio Service to Pierce County and the Pacific Northwest

11 February 2015 MINUTES
The General Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building at Waller Road and 112th Street. .

Vice President Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Board	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Board	Nick Winter K7MO

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached to the original copy of these minutes. There were 40 names on the attendance roster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led Vice President Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ

INTRODUCTIONS: Welcoming of guests and self-introductions were completed. There were several first time visitors and newly minted/upgraded hams attending.

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY: No reports.

Correspondence:

Utility Bills	Newsletters & Journals
Bank Statements	Membership Renewals

QEX, NCJ, Electric Radio

The Field Day Pig and Question box were circulated to collect donations for Field Day operations and member requests and ideas.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: George K7GRS provided a membership estimate that 132 of our 355 members have not yet completed their renewals. George notes that while many have re-

turned their surveys, some have not. The club uses the surveys for budgeting, planning and developing ways to serve the membership. A presentation is in the works to provide a summary of the survey results at a future meeting.

V E Report: provided by John Clarke AC7WW and reported by Leonard Burstiner KA7NWF

Tuesday, February 10th nine candidates showed up for the monthly testing session of the Radio Club of Tacoma VE Team. Twenty elements were graded with eleven being passed. Six new Technician class operators joined the Amateur Service. Two candidates passed elements two and three to enter the service as General Class operators. One Candidate upgraded to General.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.
Jan, K7HTU Jon, AD7AW Rich, KK7VH
Jim, N7RHX Stephen, AD7AB

The next monthly scheduled testing session will be Tuesday March 10, 2015.

Training: Next Technicians Class March 7-8

HF Station: Operational

Repeaters: All Operational

Facilities: No Report.

Property Management: Mike Finnie W7MWF
Preparations continue to get our excess gear ready for the March 7th Mike and Key Hamfest. Thus far nearly 80 items have been identified for sale. Mike reports that the storage inventory has been completed and documentation will follow. Next up, the inventory of Club assets in the clubhouse.
The Club received a generous donation of several vintage items which appear to be in good condition. Evaluation will follow, and some may be added to our Museum holdings.

PROGRAM: Logbooks and QSO logging past and present Dave Ellison W7UUU
David reviewed early logging history, and explored many of the varied ways to record our contacts and generate electronic confirmations for achieving operating awards. Dave also covered the detailed steps required to download, set up, and use the very popular but somewhat cumbersome ARRL Logbook of the World. As a free bonus Dave brought a quantity CD ROMs with logging software, step-by-step LoTW documents, and both printed and computer templates for making your own logs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Freeze Your Buns Off: Mike Finnie W7MWF
Mike provided a summary report of the 7 February QRP winter field day held at Owen Beach, Pt. Defiance Park. Bruce WB7EC arrived early to help with the setup. Using three stations, including Jim K7SSS's K3, the six operators; Rich KR7W; Randy WB4SPB, Mike W7MWF, Bob K7MXE, Chuck AC7QN and Phil K7PIA managed 24 QSOs accounting for 20 States in rainy 49 degree weather. Nearly three dozen folks dropped by to encourage the operation, and enjoy the day. The Bunny Hunt, was equally successful despite the weather, and benefited from the previous ARDF workshop presentation by Rich KR7W. The Chili provided by Paul W7PFU took the edge off of the hungries.

Workshop: 25 February Topic pending.

RCT Centennial Celebration: Planning is getting underway, all are invited to participate in the planning for our 100 year anniversary, See any Board members, or Larry KD4VOM

W7DK.org Website Search Capability: Mike W7MWF noted that in response to member concerns about finding information on the Club's Website, Webmaster Joe K7ZG has established a website search capability, which is working well. Thanks to Joe for the great work.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Radio Shack: It was noted that many Radio Shack stores will be closing and most are having deep price cuts to move inventory.

TUNING AND TRAFFIC:

There were several reports of contacts with the rare DX station near Jamaica, K1N Dave W7UUU and NickK7MO made theirs on 160 meters CW, while Mike K7STO made his on three bands using a Hexbeam. This site which is on the air for the first time in over two decades, will close down Saturday night, and likely not return for at least 10 years.

DOOR PRIZES: Jan Gilbert K7HTU picked up tonight's set of wire brushes Door Prize Bob Bosnyak picked up the large embroidered RCT jacket logo raffle prize.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm

The RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA needs your donations.

DONATIONS PLAY A BIG PART IN FUNDING THE OPERATION OF RCT. IF YOU HAVE UNWANTED OR UNNEEDED AMATEUR RADIO OR RELATED EQUIPMENT. PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING IT TO THE CLUB

If you have something to donate please contact

Any member of the Property Management Team

Attention all hands

Please remember to send in your dues to renew your membership promptly. It helps us budget for the upcoming year's activities.

CALL FOR PHOTOGRAPHS

In connection with the Club's Centennial Celebration, David W7HTJ, Doug AD7AV and Mike W7XTZ are busy compiling a presentation to showcase the Club's history and activities over the years.

If you have any pictures of people, places, events, or equipment, please get ahold of one of them.

Their contact info is listed in the Club Directory, and they would be grateful for interesting and enlightening submissions to review and build their show.

What's Happening around RCT

Mike and Key Hamfest - W7DK Participation
On Saturday, March 7, members of W7DK manned 2 sales tables and an information booth at the Puyallup Fairgrounds. Sales of surplus equipment netted the club $1329 after expenses for table rent. Bob K7MXE, Greta KF7KSW, Chuck AC7QN, Bruce WB7EC, and Mike W7MWF did a great job downstairs peddling merchandise and publicizing the club.

Upstairs, Bob N7NCP, Jim K7SSS and Whit KG7LNZ held down the fort, passing out brochures and answering questions about Radio Club of Tacoma and its activities.

ARRL Field Day 2015
Coming up on the last full weekend of June - that is June 26-28 - W7DK will again take to the field to hone our emergency operation skills under semi-primitive conditions. At present, the likely location will be at Western State Hospital in Steilacoom .

A planning/strategy session was held on March 18th, many tasks were identified and several slots were filled to oversee different projects that are essential to a fun, safe, and successful weekend.

Volunteers are needed to help guide the club and ensure that nothing is overlooked. If you want to help, please contact any Club Officer or Board Member, or Randy WB4SPB who is temporarily keeping track of who is doing what.

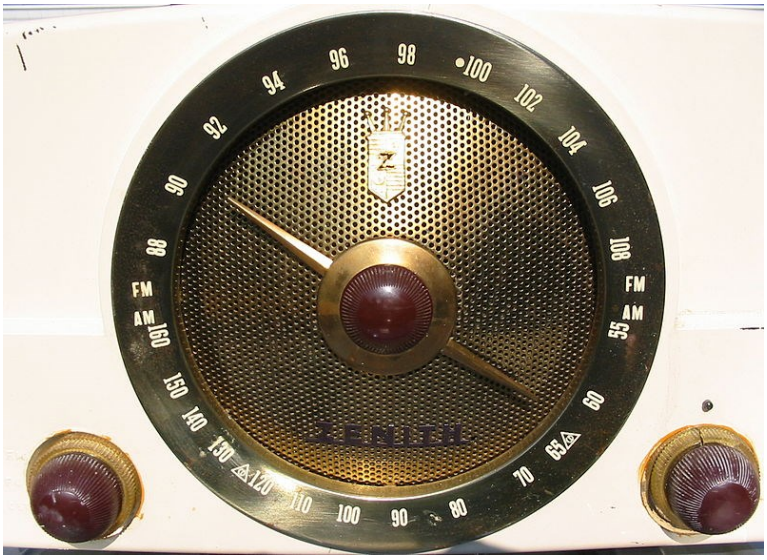
Remember, there are many skills that can be utilized beyond radio operation expertise. Without your help, the event won't be nearly as spectacular.

Our Centennial
In 2016, the Radio Club of Tacoma will celebrate 100 years of continuous operation. Be part of the planning for this once-in-our-lifetime event. Several informal meetings have been held to get things off the ground, but we need your ideas and your commitment to identify what types of events (both social and on-air), publicity, and other activities to make our centennial year a true sensation. No-one has yet stepped up to be the overall leader and coordinator,, so if you want to earn the gratitude of the entire membership, raise your hand and say "ME!". If you have an idea or a willingness to help develop an activity or two that you think would be suitable, let us know. The success of our Centennial Celebration is up to each one of YOU!

RADIO HISTORY TIDBITS

For those of us who grew up when Ike was our President, or who recall our expectation of imminent vaporization during the Cuban Missile Crisis in October of 1962, the little triangles on the dial of the family radio were very familiar to us. In fact, Parents taught their children how to tune to that spot in an emergency, and I recall learning about it being part of the curriculum taught when I was in grade school in the late 1950s.

Over the last couple of years, I have occasionally heard the question "What are those little symbols for?" asked by a younger ham at the clubhouse when looking at an old broadcast radio. Read on for a trip down memory lane, largely copied from Wikipedia and other Internet resources.



CONELRAD (**Con**trol of **El**ectromagnetic **Rad**iation) was a method of emergency broadcasting to the public of the United States in the event of enemy attack during the Cold War. It was intended to allow continuous broadcast of civil defense information to the public using radio or TV stations, while rapidly switching the transmitter stations to make the broadcasts unsuitable for Soviet bombers that might attempt to home in on the signals (as was done during World War II, when German radio stations, based in or near cities, were used as a beacon by pilots of bombers).

U.S. president Harry S. Truman established CONELRAD in 1951. After the development of intercontinental ballistic missiles reduced the likelihood of a bomber attack, CONELRAD was replaced by the Emergency Broadcast System on August 5, 1963, which was later replaced with the Emergency Alert System on January 1st, 1994; all have been administered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).
Unlike its successors, the EBS and EAS, CONELRAD was never intended to be used for severe weather warnings or local civil emergencies.
Prior to 1951, there was no method that the U.S. government could use to broadcast warnings to citizens in the event of an emergency. However, radio stations and networks could interrupt normal programming and issue a bulletin in the event of an emergency, as happened during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, as well as the first successful tornado warning near Tinker Air Force Base in 1948. This type of broadcasting was the forerunner to CONELRAD.
The CONELRAD concept was originally known as the *Key Station System*. According to an FCC document created during the "Informal Government–Industry Technical Conference" on March 26, 1951:

> "The primary plan for alerting broadcast stations that is currently being considered by the FCC Study Group is known as the Key Station System. The arrangement requires certain telephone circuits (private wire or direct line to Toll Board) between the Air Defense Control Centers (A.D.C.C.) and specified radio stations to be known as "Basic Key Stations".
> Additional telephone circuits (direct line to Toll Board) will be required in certain cases, between "Basic Key Stations" and other stations to be known as "Relay Key Stations". Each "Basic Key Station" receiving an alert or warning signal from the A.D.C.C. shall, if so directed, proceed to broadcast a predetermined message and also relay the message by telephone to all "Relay Key Stations" under his control as specified."
> CONELRAD was officially introduced on December 10, 1951.

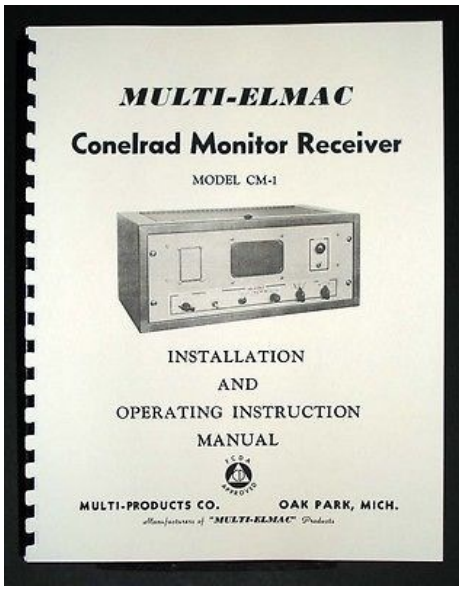
CONELRAD had a simple system for alerting the public and other "downstream" stations, consisting of a sequence of shutting the station off for five seconds, returning to the air for five seconds, again shutting down for five seconds, returning to the air again, and then transmitting a 960 Hz tone for 15 seconds. Key stations would be alerted directly. All other broadcast stations would monitor a designated station in their area.
In the event of an emergency, all United States television and FM radio stations were required to stop broadcasting. Upon alert, most AM medium-wave stations shut down.

The stations that stayed on the air would transmit on either 640 or 1240 kHz. They would transmit for several minutes and then go off the air, and another station would take over on the same frequency in a "round robin" chain. This was to confuse enemy aircraft who might be navigating using radio direction finding. By law, radio sets manufactured between 1953 and 1963 had these frequencies marked by the triangle-in-circle ("CD Mark") symbol of Civil Defense.

Although the system by which the CONELRAD process was initiated (switching the transmitter on and off) was simple, it was prone to numerous false alarms, especially during lightning storms. Transmitters could be damaged by the quick cycling. The switching later became known informally as the "EBS Stress Test" (due to many transmitters failing during tests) and was eventually discontinued when broadcast technology advanced enough to make it unnecessary.

Beginning January 2, 1957, U.S. amateur radio came under CONELRAD rules and amateur stations were also required to stop transmitting if commercial radio stations went off the air due to an alert. Several companies marketed special receivers that monitored local broadcast stations, sounding an alarm and automatically deactivating the amateur's transmitter when the broadcast station went off the air.

REQUIRED BY LAW!
As of January 2, 1957, each Radio Amateur must have some means of determining when a Conelrad Alert is in force! WRL now offers, in kit form with printed circuit, a new, completely automatic device for turning off your Xmttr. under such an Alert. Send for details.
The New WRL
Conelrad Kit
Only $22.50

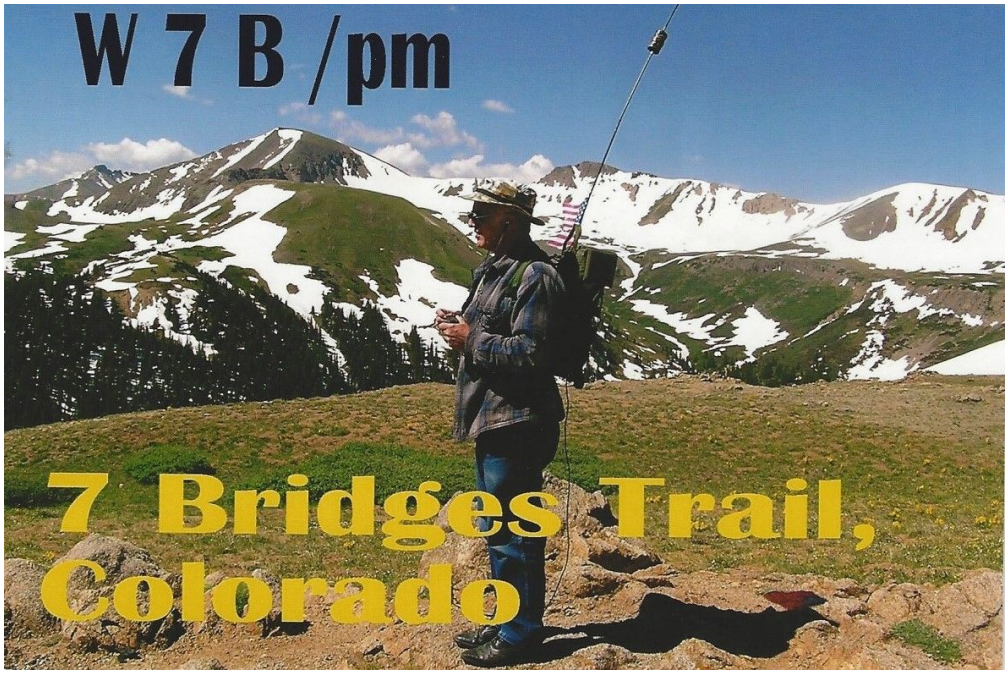


Special Cards

The Annual RCT Winter Event, which included participation in the FYBO QRP contest was held February 7th. QSO cards have been trickling into the clubhouse memorializing contacts that were made. This specialty card arrived this month, and directed to my attention (I checked the log and sure 'nuff I made the contact.

Operator's Wallpaper

If you have any special, or cool, or unique, or simply beautiful QSL cards in your collection that you'd like to share, please scan (high resolution is preferred) and email to the Bark Editor w7dk-news@earthlink.net. If you can't get them scanned, bring them along to the clubhouse on a Saturday , we'll scan them real quick and give them back to you.



W7B/pm Pedestrian Mobile
Confirming QSO with: W 7 DK
7 Feb. 2015, 1600 - 2040z
14061 kHz, CW, 5 S 9
QTH: 7 Bridges Trail, CO.
See W7B on QRZ.com
Rig: PRC319, 50W to 6 ft whip
73 Paul w0rw
905 Zodiac Dr.
Colorado Springs, CO 80905, USA

The Radio Club of Tacoma's Logger's Bark

The Logger's Bark **is the *OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA*… and is published by W7DK Press, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.**

Club Officers

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Vice Pres: Mike Mikuchonis email to w7xtz @ w7dk.org
Secretary: Larry Watson KD4VOM email to kd4vom @ w7dk.org
Treasurer: David Andresen W7HTJ email to w7htj @ w7dk.org

5 Board Members (listed in no particular order)

Al Ferguson N7OMS email to n7oms @ w7dk.org
Nick Winter K7MO email to k7mo @ w7dk.org
Bruce Hanson WE7P email to we7p @ w7dk.org
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The Fine Print: The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: www.w7dk.org.

Permission is granted to use any or all portions of articles published in The Loggers Bark. If a credit line is included in the article, please seek permission from the original writer also.

Membership Info: **FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is $35 per calendar year. $30 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay $20 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are $20 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.**

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5
Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5
Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5
North Tacoma: 145.21 – PL=141.3

Remember - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website w7dk.org. Be sure to enroll as a member to see all the info.

The Loggers Bark
Radio Club of Tacoma
PO Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411

Upcoming RCT Events

REGULAR EVENTS

Club Meetings: Second Wednesday of the month at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Workshops: Fourth Wednesday of the month at the Clubhouse, 1249 So. Washington St, Tacoma. A variety of training and educational events will be conducted.

Board Meeting: First Wednesday of the month at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz .

SPECIAL EVENTS

ARRL Field Day W7DK will head for the field on the last full weekend of June, 2015

End of Grace Period for Dues Renewal March 31, 2015